



Floodwater and Oil Contamination- Precautions for Residents Preparing to Return

- Federal and state officials advise caution when returning to flood damaged homes or businesses.
- Follow local authorities' directions when preparing to return home or to businesses.
- Do not attempt to enter oil-contaminated areas or return to a home or business until local authorities approve your area for reoccupation.
- For Oklahoma questions call Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality at 1-800-522-0206, or you may contact U.S. EPA Region 6 at 1-800-887-6063.
- For Kansas questions call Kansas Department of Health and Environment at 1-620-431-2390 or U.S. EPA Region 7 at 1-800-223-0425.
- Residents returning to the area should avoid direct contact with floodwater or materials contaminated with oil.
- Floodwater may be contaminated with raw sewage, chemicals or oil.
- Federal and state health officials recommend avoiding contact with potentially contaminated floodwater.
- Floodwater may contain materials that pose a skin irritation problem if they get onto bare or broken skin. Skin contact with oils for short periods may cause itchy, red, sore, or peeling skin. If irritation persists, seek medical attention.
- Children and pets should not enter floodwater, especially if oil is present.

- **Protect your skin from contacting oil:**
 - Use oil resistant gloves
 - Keep arms and legs covered
 - Wear disposable coveralls or clothing that can be discarded
 - If you get oil on skin, wash well with soap & clean water.

- **Be careful not to bring oil-contamination to other places:**
 - Wear boot covers or leave work boots at the oil-contaminated property.
 - Do not track oil or oily sediments into your car or truck.
 - Do not take items with oil to other locations that might contaminate others.
 - Do not wash clothes worn in oil spill area in commercial or family laundry.

- **Open doors and windows to ventilate the oil-contaminated property.**

- **Do not eat, drink or smoke when exposed to flood waters.** Take precautions not to ingest floodwater.

- Local officials are taking precautions to protect drinking water systems. Follow local authority guidelines and precautions in your area. Contact your local provider for information about your drinking water.

- If uncertain, drink bottled water until information can be obtained.

- In case of poisoning, call the National Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 immediately.

- To report oil and chemical spills and radiation emergencies, call the National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802.